

Application No.: 08/902,371  
Filed: July 29, 1997

- 1 12. (Unchanged) An apparatus comprising:  
2 a keyboard having a thermally conductive support plate, said support  
3 plate having a substantially planar bottom surface;  
4 a flat heat pipe attached to said bottom surface of said keyboard support  
5 plate, a heat generating device thermally coupled to said flat heat pipe; and  
6 air moving means for producing an air flow through a housing, at least a  
7 portion of said housing being thermally coupled to said flat heat pipe.
- 1 13. (Unchanged) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said flat heat pipe  
2 comprises a plurality of micro-channels that are arranged parallel to one another.
- 1 14. (Unchanged) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said air moving means  
2 comprises a fan.
- 1 15. (Twice Amended) [The apparatus of claim 12,] An apparatus comprising:  
2 a keyboard having a thermally conductive support plate, said support  
3 plate having a substantially planar bottom surface;  
4 a flat heat pipe attached to said bottom surface of said keyboard support  
5 plate, a heat generating device thermally coupled to said flat heat pipe; and  
6 air moving means for producing an air flow through a housing, at least a  
7 portion of said housing being thermally coupled to said flat heat pipe, wherein

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8 said housing includes at least one fin disposed in the path of said air flow, said  
9 heat pipe thermally coupled to said fin.

1 16. (Unchanged) The apparatus of claim 14 further comprising a control  
2 circuit for switching said fan on or off in response to a temperature measurement  
3 on said keyboard.

1 17. (Unchanged) The apparatus of claim 14 further comprising a control  
2 circuit for switching said fan on or off in response to a temperature measurement  
3 of said heat generating device.

1 18. (Unchanged) The apparatus of claim 14 further comprising:  
2 a temperature sensing device attached to said keyboard; and  
3 a controller for receiving a signal from said temperature sensing device,  
4 said controller switching said fan on or off in response to said signal.

1 19. (Unchanged) The apparatus of claim 14 further comprising:  
2 a temperature sensing device attached to said heat generating device; and  
3 a controller for receiving a signal from said temperature sensing device,  
4 said controller switching said fan on or off in response to said signal.

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1 20. (Unchanged) An apparatus comprising:  
2 a keyboard having a thermally conductive support plate, said support  
3 plate having a substantially planar bottom surface;  
4 a flat heat pipe attached to said bottom surface of said keyboard support  
5 plate, a heat generating device thermally coupled to said flat heat pipe;  
6 a fan for producing air flow through a fan housing; and  
7 a thermally conductive fin located within said air flow, said heat pipe  
8 thermally coupled to said fin.

1 21. (Unchanged) The apparatus of claim 20 further comprising:  
2 a temperature sensing device attached to said keyboard; and  
3 a controller for receiving a signal from said temperature sensing device,  
4 said controller switching said fan on or off in response to said signal.

1 22. (Unchanged) The apparatus of claim 20 further comprising:  
2 a temperature sensing device attached to said heat generating device; and  
3 a controller for receiving a signal from said temperature sensing device,  
4 said controller switching said fan on or off in response to said signal.

1 25. (Unchanged) An apparatus comprising:  
2 a keyboard having a thermally conductive support plate, said support  
3 plate having a substantially planar bottom surface;

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4 a flat heat pipe attached to said bottom surface of said keyboard support  
5 plate, a heat generating device thermally coupled to said flat heat pipe; and  
6 a fan for producing air flow through a fan housing, said fan housing  
7 thermally coupled to said flat heat pipe.

1 26. (Unchanged) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein said flat heat pipe covers  
2 at least about one-half of the surface area of said bottom surface of said keyboard  
3 support plate.

1 27. (Unchanged) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein said flat heat pipe covers  
2 substantially the entire surface area of said bottom surface of said keyboard  
3 support plate.

1 28. (Amended) [The apparatus of claim 25] An apparatus comprising:  
2 a keyboard having a thermally conductive support plate, said support  
3 plate having a substantially planar bottom surface;  
4 a flat heat pipe attached to said bottom surface of said keyboard support  
5 plate, a heat generating device thermally coupled to said flat heat pipe; and  
6 a fan for producing air flow through a fan housing, said fan housing  
7 thermally coupled to said flat heat pipe, wherein said flat heat pipe has a first  
8 end and a second end, said heat generating device is thermally coupled to said

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9 flat heat pipe adjacent to said first end, and said fan housing is thermally coupled  
10 to said flat heat pipe adjacent said second end.

1 29. (Unchanged) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein said flat heat pipe  
2 defines an open area sized to accommodate a component of said portable  
3 computer.

1 30. (Amended) [The apparatus of claim 25] An apparatus comprising:  
2 a keyboard having a thermally conductive support plate, said support  
3 plate having a substantially planar bottom surface;  
4 a flat heat pipe attached to said bottom surface of said keyboard support  
5 plate, a heat generating device thermally coupled to said flat heat pipe; and  
6 a fan for producing air flow through a fan housing, said fan housing  
7 thermally coupled to said flat heat pipe, wherein said flat heat pipe includes two  
8 metal plates having respective first surfaces joined together and having  
9 respective second surfaces, at least one of said metal plates being formed such  
10 that a channel is formed between said first surfaces of said metal plates and a  
11 protrusion is formed on said second surface of said formed metal plate, said  
12 protrusion corresponding to said channel.